

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02108 310721Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 /013 W
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R 310633Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9131

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2108

USIAC

USIA FOR IBS AND IEA

E.O. 11652: GDS DECLAS 12-31-81
SUBJECT: VOA NEWS RELAY

REF: SEOUL 0063, JAN 7, 1974. HESS/PAYEFF OFFICIAL-
INFORMAL JULY 15, 1974.

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND CHUN
SUNG CHUMN, NEW PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING
SERVICE (CBS), CHUN STATED THAT HE WISHED TO REINSTATE
THE VOA NEWS RELAY BY CBS AND ASKED FOR OUR AGREE-
MENT. EMBOFFS NEITHER ACCEPTED NOR REJECTED PRO-
POSAL BUT SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER IT.
2. AS REPORTED BOTH REFS, REASON FOR DISCONTINUANCE
CBS RELAY OF VOA IN JAN 1974 WAS HEAVY GOVERNMENT
PRESSURE ON CBS INCLUDING SUCCESSFUL ROKG DEMAND
UPON THEN CBS PRESIDENT O CHAE-KYUNG FOR WRITTEN
UNDERTAKING THAT NEWS RELAY WOULD NEVER BE RESUMED
AS CONDITION OF RENEWAL CBS' BROADCASTING LICENSE.
3. WE DO NOT AT MOMENT BELIEVE ROKG WILL ACCEDE TO
ANY CBS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO RESUME RELAY. NOR
DO WE BELIEVE THAT PRESENT CBS MANAGEMENT WILL
RESUME RELAY WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING SOME FORM OF
PERMISSION FROM ROKG.

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4. WE DO NOT PLAN TO CONTACT CHUN ON THIS MATTER AT THE PRESENT TIME. IF HE AGAIN APPROACHES EMBASSY OR USIS, WE WOULD, IF THIS ACCORDS WITH PRESENT PRACTICE IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS SUCH AS SPANISH-LANGUAGE RELAYS IN LATIN AMERICA, PLAN TO REPLY THAT CBS, OR ANY OTHER BROADCASTER, IS FREE TO RELAY VOA NEWS ONCE IT IS BROADCAST AND THAT QUESTION OF OBTAINING ANY FORM OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN APPROVAL DOES NOT ARISE. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT VOA PREFERS TO SEE ITS NEWSCASTS RELAYED INTACT WITH THEIR FORMAT INTEGRITY UNDISTURBED BY END-USER SELECTION OF ITEMS.

5. ADVISE.
HESS

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NNN

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